**Parent Support Group**

Dear Parent,

After surveying parents of the children from our summer camp, there was an overwhelming response from parents expressing interest in a parent support group for families who have children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, as well as, Children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. There are so many issues that it can become overwhelming for parents. Having the support of others in similar situations can make the difference between coping or struggling.

For those of you who have not had an opportunity to be part of a parent support group in the past, there are many benefits, aside from the obvious benefit of support from people in a similar situation. Some of those benefits include sharing ideas, concerns, hopes and dreams, as well as, providing resources and valued information. Finding yourself immersed in the complicated world of diagnosis, weighing the benefits vs. costs of various therapies, applying for Medicaid Waiver, diets, etc. can become overwhelming. Even something as simple as getting someone to cut your child’s hair or provide dentistry services can be complicated, especially if you are depending on Medicaid for funding. Networking in a parent support group can be customized to fit local needs.

This letter is an effort to reach anyone else who would like to be a part of the parent support group. We value your input in creating a group that will provide the supports that you will find helpful, whether that is respite nights, summer camps, morning coffees, informational speakers, sibling groups, or just a place to find someone to discuss concerns and share funny stories. This and more are all possible!

I would like to put together an evening meeting on October 22nd at our Main Campus starting at 6:30pm. Child care will be provided based on RSVP.

Please, give me a call (and leave a message if I cannot answer) or send an email, so I can add your name and contact information to our list. I will keep you posted on our progress. I look forward to meeting you all and working together to create a group that will be a support to families of special needs children.

I look forward to talking with you!

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